

## Message Text

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ACTION OIC-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-12 HEW-06 OES-07 CEQ-01  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9338

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 07004

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: WHO, IARC

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER --  
SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF GOVERNING COUNCIL, LYON, MAY 4-5

REF: STATE CABLE TO LYON 104209

1. SUMMARY. THIS YEAR'S MEETING OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC) WAS RELATIVELY UNEVENTFUL. INTEREST OF DELEGATIONS CENTERED ON QUESTION OF HOW GC SHOULD RESPOND TO WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION (EB61/R.29) OF LAST JANUARY TO SEEK CLOSER COLLABORATION ON CANCER BETWEEN WHO HEAD-QUARTERS AND IARC THROUGH MECHANISM OF A DIRECTOR GENERAL'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE. IT WAS AGREED THAT GC RESPONSE SHOULD BE COURTEOUS BUT GUARDED. SOVIET ARREARS PROBLEM WAS NOT RESOLVED. POSSIBLE APPLICATION OF NEW MEMBERS WAS DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. WHO DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL LAMBO, REPRESENTING DR MAHLER WHO IS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF GC, SEIZED FIRST OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED -- ANNUAL REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF IARC'S SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL ON STATUS OF AGENCY'S PROGRAMS -- TO URGE IARC TO BROADEN ITS SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES, IGNORE SUCH "ARTIFICIAL" BARRIERS AS ITS CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE, AND BECOME INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN DEVELOPING  
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COUNTRIES. HE PROMISED WHO SUPPORT, CITING EB 61.R29, HE SAID IT WAS TIME TO DROP OLD SQUABBLES ABOUT RELATION BETWEEN WHO AND IARC. BOTH ORGANIZATIONS HAD THEIR WORK OCCURRING IN WHO. OLD "ANOMALIES" SHOULD DISAPPEAR, OLD COORDINATING MECHANISMS WERE "INSUFFICIENT".

3. GC REACTION WAS COOL. THEME OF DELEGATES' INITIAL INTERVENTION WAS THAT PRESENT PROGRAMS ARE SCIENTIFICALLY

SOUND, BUDGET CEILING IS NECESSARILY LOW, IARC HAS ALWAYS WORKED WHERE RESEARCH POTENTIAL IS MOST PROMISING (WHETHER IN DC'S OR LDC'S), AND ANY ATTEMPT TO TURN IARC INTO INSTRUMENT OF AID TO LDC'S RATHER THAN OF QUALITY RESEARCH MUST BE RESISTED.

4. IARC DIRECTOR HIGGINSON (AMERICAN) REPORTED TO GC THAT HE HAD MET PREVIOUS WEEK WITH WHO TOP OFFICIALS (MAHLER, CHEN, COHEN) TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF EB 61.R29, WHICH CALLS FOR WHO, IARC, AND INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST CANCER (UICC) TO JOIN IN A DG'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE. UNDERSTANDING IS THAT EACH WILL HAVE "EQUAL VOICE". HIGGINSON SAID UICC WAS NOT INVITED TO THIS FIRST MEETING. PLAN IS FOR HIGGINSON AND DG MAHLER TO CONSTITUTE FIRST LEVEL OF COORDINATION. THEY WILL IN DUE COURSE CREATE A "TECHNICAL COMMITTEE" WHICH WILL INCLUDE UICC, PROVIDED LATTER'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (WHICH MEETS IN BUENOS AIRES IN OCTOBER) AGREES. NEXT WHO/IARC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 8. AT THAT MEETING HIGGINSON SAID HE WOULD, IF GC AGREED, REITERATE IARC WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH WHO IN WORLD CANCER PLANNING WITHIN LIMITS OF IARC STATUTE AND ITS TECHNICAL COMPETENCE.

5. GC FINALLY ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS A RESOLUTION "WELCOMING" WISH OF EXECUTIVE BOARD TO COLLABORATE, REAFFIRMING A "SIMILAR" WISH, "WITHOUT THEREBY WAIVING ANY OF PRERO-UNCLASSIFIED

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GATIVES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE CONFERRED BY ITS STATUTE", AND CONFIRMING A GC RESOLUTION OF 1976 OFFERING IARC'S COOPERATION TO WHO. PROLONGED DISCUSSION PRECEDING ADOPTION WAS MARKED BY STRONG STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDING IARC'S SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY (BELGIUM, UK, GERMANY, USSR) AND Milder STATEMENTS TO EFFECT THAT THIS INTEGRITY DID NOT APPEAR THREATENED AND THAT PROPOSAL IN EB61.R29 SHOULD BE GIVEN A TRY (FRANCE, ITALY, NETHERLANDS).

6. SOVIET ARREARS (OF \$335,000) WHICH WAS SUBJECT OF MUCH CONTROVERSY AT LAST YEAR'S GC, WAS PASSED OVER IN SILENCE. REASON IS THAT MEMBERS WERE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT RECENT ELECTION OF THE REGULAR SOVIET DELEGATE TO IARC TO PRESIDENCY OF SOVIET ACADEMY OF MEDICINE HAS PAVED WAY FOR SHIFT FROM POLICY OF LIMITING SOVIET ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO AMOUNT OF 1975 ASSESSMENT. IF QUESTION IS NOT RESOLVED BY NEXT MEETING OF GC, THIS WILL PROBABLY BECOME A MAJOR ISSUE AGAIN.

7. QUESTION OF POSSIBLE NEW MEMBERS OF IARC WAS RAISED BY US. HIGGINSON REPORTED THAT SWEDEN MAY HAVE DECIDED TO JOIN IN 1979. IRAN IS SHOWING INTEREST, SWITZERLAND IS

ALSO A POSSIBILITY. DELEGATE OF NETHERLANDS COMMENTED  
THAT IF IARC ACQUIRES NEW MEMBER(S) IN 1979, GC WILL  
NEED TO REVIEW ITS CURRENT POLICY OF MAINTAINING NET  
PROGRAM ACTIVITY AT 1970 LEVEL.

8. GC ELECTED TO IARC'S SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL FOR FOUR-YEAR  
TERMS PROFESSOR J. CAIRNS (UK), PROFESSOR P. EMMELOT  
(NETHERLANDS) AND PROFESSOR I. BERNARD WEINSTEIN (US). FOR  
TWO-YEAR TERM, REPLACING PROFESSOR VAN DER SCHUEREN  
(DECEASED), IT ELECTED PROFESSOR A.R.M. LAFONTAINE

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(BELGIUM). VANDEN HEUVEL

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